

Insulin for All Act of 2023

Senator Bernie Sanders & Representative Cori Bush

Background: Insulin is not a new drug. It was discovered 100 years ago by Canadian scientists who sold the patent rights of insulin for just \$1 because they wanted to save lives, not make pharmaceutical executives extremely wealthy. “Insulin does not belong to me,” famously said one of the scientists. “It belongs to the world.”

And yet, as a result of unacceptable corporate greed, the price of insulin has gone up by over 1,000 percent since 1996 causing 1.3 million people with diabetes to ration insulin while the three major insulin manufacturers made \$21 [billion dollars in profits](#) last year.

More than [37 million people](#) in the United States have diabetes and more than 7 million people use insulin. People with diabetes face nearly [\\$17,000 per year](#) in medical expenses, more than half of which is directly attributable to their diabetes. Diabetes can cause blindness, kidney failure, heart attacks, stroke, and other severe health consequences. Health care for people with diabetes accounts for [one in four](#) health care dollars in the United States.

Insulin prices are outrageous. Sanofi’s Lantus costs \$292 per vial. Novo Nordisk’s Novolog is listed at \$289. Eli Lilly’s Lyumjev can be purchased for \$275.

There is no reason why Americans should pay the highest prices in the world for insulin—in some cases, [ten times as much](#) as people in other countries. Researchers estimate that a vial of insulin costs just [\\$8 to manufacture](#).

What the Bill Would Do: This legislation would cap the list price of insulin. It would prohibit pharmaceutical manufacturers from charging more than \$20 per vial (i.e., 1000 units of insulin).

Why the Bill is Needed: Although Eli Lilly recently announced price cuts for one insulin named Humalog, the company will not reduce the price of other insulin products. Novo Nordisk and Sanofi, the other major insulin manufacturers, have not made any commitment to lower their prices at all.

When Eli Lilly first launched Humalog in 1996, it set the price [close to \\$20](#).

Restoring a \$20 price for all insulins would help everyone who uses insulin, including the uninsured, who are the most vulnerable to rationing. One study found that nearly [30% of people](#) without insurance ration insulin.

This bill would save countless lives, and help ensure insulin is not a luxury but a human right.

There are 72 groups who endorsed the bill:

1. T1International
2. The Insulin Initiative
3. The Diabetes Link
4. Mutual Aid Diabetes
5. Social Security Works
6. Public Citizen
7. Center for Popular Democracy
8. People's Action
9. ACA Consumer Advocacy
10. AF3IRM
11. AIDS Healthcare Foundation
12. American Federation of Teachers
13. American Medical Student Association
14. Association of Flight Attendants-CWA
15. Campaign for America's Future
16. Care in Action
17. Center for Medicare Advocacy
18. CommonDefense.us
19. Doctors for America
20. Gen-Z for Change
21. Health Care Voices
22. Healthcare NOW
23. Indivisible
24. Just Care USA
25. MoveOn
26. National Domestic Workers Alliance
27. National Educators United
28. Our Revolution
29. United Mine Workers of America
30. Sunrise Movement
31. Arizona Educators United
32. Arkansas #insulin4all
33. AZ Medicare for All Coalition
34. Bayard Rustin Liberation Initiative
35. Beta Cell Action
36. California #insulin4all
37. Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
38. Community Catalyst
39. Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
40. Dominican Sisters ~ Grand Rapids
41. Dominican Sisters of Houston
42. Dominican Sisters, M SJ
43. Families United for Affordable Insulin
44. Franciscan Peace Center, Clinton, Iowa

45. Health Care Awareness Month
46. Idaho #insulin4all
47. Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR)
48. Kentucky #insulin4all Chapter
49. Medical Mission Sisters
50. Michigan #Insulin4all
51. Michigan #Insulin4all Chapter
52. National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
53. National Health Care for the Homeless Council
54. NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
55. New York #insulin4all
56. Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment
57. Ohio #insulin4all
58. Oklahoma #Insulin4All
59. Progressive Democrats of America, Oregon Chapter
60. Rights & Democracy
61. Sanford Springvale Democratic City Committee
62. Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition for Responsible Investments
63. Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Albany Province
64. Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield, MA
65. Sisters of St. Mary of Namur
66. Tacoma Dominican
67. Tennessee #insulin4all
68. Tennessee Health Care Campaign, Inc
69. U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph
70. Universities Allied for Essential Medicines
71. Utah #insulin4all
72. WV #insulin4all